

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT
SUBJECT	11th Mechanized Division	DATE DISTR. 26 MAR 1959
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Staff officers of the 11th Mechanized Division were to have completed an exercise on command duties in units withdrawing from their lines of defense under nuclear warfare conditions on 13 February 1959.
2. The division commander, Colonel Dolinski (fnu), delivered a lecture before the exercise started in which he explained that the traditional tenet of "defense to the last man" could result in the destruction of entire formations in nuclear warfare and therefore had to be replaced by a more flexible doctrine. In certain situations retreat was allowed, provided it was executed according to plan and in a way which could be turned into an offensive at the right moment.
3. This exercise which started at the [] border and ended at Zagan was held under the supervision of the division commander. After the exercise several of the participating officers complained of the insufficient number of vehicles at the division's disposal which limited the units' maneuverability. Also, the troops had been transported in open trucks (the weather was -20° Centigrade) and, in order to protect themselves against the cold, had covered the trucks with tarpaulins and sheet iron which they had "borrowed" from the warehouse; this gave the convoys a very unmilitary appearance.
4. Recently this division was issued 57 mm. recoilless guns. At the beginning of firing practice, the loader who inserted the shell regularly burnt his hands. Asbestos gloves are used now and injuries have been reduced. The gun crews have learned to operate the guns satisfactorily according to divisional officers. The division has also been issued an unspecified number of 75 mm. recoilless guns of Hungarian make.

STATE	x	ARMY	EY	x	NAVY	x	AIR	x	FBI	x	AEC				
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)															

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Division and comprises the latter's artillery range as well.

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